

State Writing Assessment Scoring Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Ideas and Development	Extensive development of several ideas (or one important main idea) with extension and elaboration on all or most of the points. Look for uniqueness, interest to audience, and strong supporting details. May be exceptional writing or extremely thorough.	Good development of ideas with many details extended and elaborated. Ideas are fairly well supported. May be an extensive list with little or no elaboration.	Adequately supported ideas with some details extended or elaborated.	Weak ideas minimally supported with little or no extension of details.
Organization, Unity, and Coherence	Completely organized with smooth flow from one idea to the next through the use of transitions and sequencing. Unity is strongly evident with no wandering from the primary theme or plan.	Fairly well organized with good unity of plan. Some transitions may be used. Little or no digression from main ideas or writing.	Small amount of organization. Weak plan that may not be well unified. Ideas may be only minimally connected. May frequently wander from expected writing mode.	Lack of plan or coherence.
Word Choice	Precise, appropriate, accurate, and specific word choices that convey the correct meaning and appeal to the audience. May be vivid and imaginative.	Word choices that are appropriate and specific. May lack “sparkle,” but the meaning is clear.	Fair use of words. May be specific but have little variety. May be simplistic and occasionally vague, but generally effective.	Very simplistic. Meaning may be unclear or inappropriate.
Sentences and Paragraphs	Excellent control and formation of sentences. Variety of sentence structure, type, and length contribute to fluency and interest. Paragraphs used appropriate. Few, if any, errors.	Adequate control of sentence formation. Some mix of sentence types, lengths, and structures. May contain a small number of errors that do not interfere with fluency. May have some attempt at paragraphing.	Most sentences constructed correctly. May have little variety in type, length, or structure. May be somewhat monotonous or choppy. May contain several errors or lack control. May have no attempt at paragraphing.	Poor sentence structure with many errors that inhibit fluency or clarity. Lack of control.
Grammar and Usage	Error free or very few errors in approximate proportion to the length of the paper	Good grammar and word usage. Errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the paper.	Fair grammar and usage. Errors may interfere with meaning. May be simplistic.	Poor grammar and word usage with frequent or serious errors.
Writing Mechanics	Error free or very few errors in approximate proportion to the length of the paper	Most punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is correct. Errors do not interfere with communication.	Some errors in punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may interfere somewhat with communication.	Frequent and/or serious errors in mechanics that interfere with communication.